

**‘OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20508**

USTR PRESS RELEASES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USTR WEBSITE AT WWW.USTR.GOV.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 16, 2001**

**01 -04
CONTACT: BRENDAN DALY
AMY STILWELL
(202) 395-3230**

**Barshefsky Praises Progress in U.S.- Chile
Free Trade Agreement Negotiations**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today applauded the progress made by the United States and Chile at the second round of negotiations on the U.S.- Chile Free Trade Agreement, held January 8-11 in Santiago, Chile. Ambassador Barshefsky and Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear launched the first round of negotiations in Washington, D.C., on December 6, 2000.

“An FTA with Chile will create commercial opportunities for U.S. businesses, workers and farmers and complement the negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas as we approach the Quebec Summit in April,” said Ambassador Barshefsky. “The progress made last week provides a firm foundation for the Bush Administration to continue FTA negotiations with Chile.”

These negotiations are an extension of the Chile- U.S. Joint Commission on Trade and Investment established by President Clinton and former Chilean President Frei during the 1998 State visit to Santiago.

During last week’s negotiations, more than one hundred experts from Chile and the United States convened to discuss the following issues: trade in industrial goods; trade in agricultural goods; rules of origin and customs procedures; safeguards; antidumping, countervailing duties and subsidies; sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures; technical norms and standards; investment; services; financial services; E-commerce; temporary entry of business people; competition policy; intellectual property; government procurement; transparency/dispute settlement; labor issues; and environmental issues.

The two countries have agreed to hold a third round of consultations as soon as possible. Meanwhile, both sides agreed that they would exchange data on the issues that will be negotiated.

In addition, the U.S. team will consult with the Congress, as well as other interested parties and review public responses to a notice published in the *Federal Register* on December 14.

Bilateral trade between the United States and Chile has more than doubled in the past decade and is currently nearly \$6 billion annually.